...PEOPLE PASS AWAY.
AND ANGELS AND DEMONS, THE PEOPLE OF THE OTHER-WORLD- WE ARE THE SAME.
WE ARE CERTAINLY LONG-LIVED, BUT EVEN SO, WE ARE NOT IMMORTAL.
こばと。
Presented by CLAMP
THOUGH WE ARE PROMISED REINCAR-NATION,
THAT CANNOT BE SAID TO BE THE SAME PERSON.

THEN ALL THE MORE,
WHEN THE PERSON IS IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES, DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU WANT THAT?
IF THAT IS THAT PERSON'S HAPPINESS.
BUT
IF THAT PERSON'S HAPPINESS IS NOT TO LIVE WITH YOU,
THOUGH IT'S SAD, AND HARD,
BUT
THAT'S CERTAINLY BETTER THAN THAT PERSON NOT BEING HAPPY.

ARE YOU SAYING... THAT IOROGI IS THE SAME?
Clench
THE THOUGHTS THAT IOROGI-SAN AND KOHAKU HAVE AREN'T THE SAME.
BUT THERE MIGHT BE PLACES THAT THEY INTERSECT.
CERTAINLY
YOU AS WELL, GINSEI-SAN.

FOR ME, THOSE THINGS...
ARE THERE.
RIGHT THERE.
...

...GINSEI-SAN,
RIGHT NOW-
I...
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT MOST TO DO?

I
Rolling
HAVE BEEN WATCHING EVER SINCE THAT IOROGI WAS JUST A BAD KID.
SHEESH, SINCE HE REALLY WAS REARED LIKE THAT,
WERE YOU WORRIED-?
HE GREW UP TO BE AN UNBELIEVABLE GUY.
THAT SORT OF THING IN PARTICULAR I GOT PAST.
I THOUGHT THAT HE ABSOLUTELY WOULDN'T INHERIT THE OTHERWORLD IF I DIDN'T FORCE HIM TO MEET PAIN SOMEWHERE CONFUSED.
Flapping
THE THING THAT MADE ME ANGRIEST WAS-

IOROGI-
HE DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING EVEN OF HIS OWN LIFE.
HE JUST DID RECKLESS THINGS IN ABSURD PLACES.
THOUGH WE WARNED HIM ABOUT WHAT KIND OF OTHERLORD HE WAS, HE NEVER LISTENED.
THEN HE FOUND GINSEI ON THE VERGE OF DEATH NEAR THE OTHER-WORLD,
AND GAVE HIM SOME SORT OF NAME, AND RAISED HIM.
LITTLE BY LITTLE, HE WAS CHANGING.

WELL, NEITHER IOROGI NOR GINSEI WERE REALLY DOCILE.
EVERY, EVERY TIME THEY MET, THEY STARTED A SERIOUS BATTLEFIELD!
Growling
もも
AUGH- EVEN IF WE USED BOTH HANDS AND BOTH FEET, IT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH FOR THE THINGS IN THE OTHERWORLD THEY ALREADY DESTROYED!
HOW MANY TIMES DID HE GET US INVOLVED!
The force for those rebels' quarrel
WAAAUUGH
You're not talking about me, who was broken!
THOSE TIMES, I WAS SHOUTED AT!
BY THOSE PEOPLE FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY!

AND IOROGI CHANGED.
Breathing hard
NONETHELESS, GINSEI WAS THE SPUR,
WHAT MADE IT DEFINITE
WAS HIS MEETING WITH THAT ANGEL.

WAS THAT A GOOD THING?
WHO KNOWS.
WHO WILL DECIDE WHETHER IT WAS GOOD OR ILL
IS IOROGI HIMSELF.

...IT'S NOT A VERY INTERESTING QUESTION,
KOBATO-CHAN.
Rubbing out
...
IF I HAVE DISCOM-FORTED YOU,
I APOLOGIZE.
BUT

Sudden!

YOU'VE ALWAYS CLOSED IT, HERE, AND SAID THINGS THAT ARE DIFFERENT THAN THE TRUTH.

Slowly

CLOSED?

OKIURA-SAN,

YOU'VE ALWAYS CLOSED IT, HAVEN'T YOU.

WHAT?

IT'S JUST
WHAT I THINK.
...IS THIS A TACTIC, TRYING TO APPEAL TO EMOTIONS?
THERE IS NO TACTIC OR ANYTHING.
THE TRUTH IS
HARD,
AND PAINFUL.
...I'M JUST LISTENING.

SHE'S...
Br-rring!
MY...
Inhaling sharply

I FOUND HER, KYOKAZU!
Flip
HELLO?!
WHERE IS SHE?!
AND JUST THEN I GOT A CALL FROM THE OWNER OF THE CHIRORU SHOP.
I CAME TO THE APARTMENT THINKING SHE MIGHT HAVE GONE BACK THERE,

WHILE THE PART-TIMER WAS OUT BUYING,
IT SEEMS THEY SAW KOBATO-CHAN ENTER THE PARK WITH A GUY WEARING SUNGLASSES.
WHERE?!
MARUYAMA PARK.
Sudden
Flip
Whip
MARUYAMA PARK!
WAIT,
KYO-KAZU!

Setting off running
I'M HOME.
Door sliding
WELCOME HOME.

...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
A GUEST WAS HERE UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
HE LET ME TALK WITH HIM.
...BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

KOHAKU NO LONGER HAS THE POWER TO INFLUENCE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN HEAVEN, EARTH, OR THE OTHERWORLD.
BUT EVEN SO,
WISHING EVERYONE COULD BE HAPPY,
IS ARROGANCE, ISN'T IT?
SLOWLY
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN I'M ARROGANT TOO.

IF YOU
ARE HAPPY WISHING FOR THAT, THEN IT'S FINE, KOHAKU.
... SHUU-ICHIROU-SAN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M SURE AN ANGEL'S WISH WILL BE GRANTED.

Scans: ???

TL: starlady38

Edit: Fail Manga

こばと。
Presented by CLAMP
EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE WINGS,
BUT,
EVEN IF KOHAKU CAN USE HOUGAN,
...SHE NO LONGER HAS WINGS.
THE FACT THAT KOHAKU IS AN ANGEL WON'T CHANGE, FOR ME.
...THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SOME-
HOW,
THAT THE
PEOPLE EVERYONE
CARES FOR
WILL
RECEIVE THAT
PERSON'S
FEELINGS-

KOBATO-CHAN AND THE ANGEL-
AND,
THAT BOTH THEIR KIND WISHES MAY BE GRANTED.

NO,
HE CAN'T SEE THEM.
...THAT HUMAN HASN'T NOTICED KOBATO'S WINGS.
BUT THAT IS CERTAINLY SOMETHING THAT ONLY ANGELS HAVE,
WINGS TRANSPARENT TO LIGHT.

THEY'RE
...HER WINGS.
IT CAN'T BE...
BUT WHY ARE THE ANGEL'S WINGS ON KOBATO...

...THERE IS A PERSON YOU CARE ABOUT.
THOUGH YOU WERE TOGETHER ONCE...
BUT...
IN ORDER TO KEEP THAT PERSON AWAY FROM TRUE DANGER,
YOU INTEN-TIONALLY WOUNDED THEM,
...AND PARTED.

THAT REALLY IS AN ANGEL'S POWER.
AND BECAUSE
YOU STILL CARE ABOUT THEM, YOU'RE DECEIVING THEM TOO.
SHE'S READING OKIURA'S HEART WITH HOUGAN.

BUT SHE SHOULD BE SLEEPING INSIDE KOBATO.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S CONJECTURE, THAT'S TERRIBLE.
...I'VE ONLY SPOKEN ACCORDING TO WHAT I HEARD WITHIN YOUR HEART.
THOUGH IT WAS HIDDEN MULTIPLE TIMES, AND IT WAS HARD TO HEAR,
IT WAS CERTAINLY YOUR VOICE.

YOUR WISH IS THAT THAT PERSON YOU CARE ABOUT BE HAPPY,
THOUGH THAT IS A VERY HARD THING FOR YOU.
THAT PERSON IS...
Grab
Squeezing

...EVEN IF THAT IS THE CASE,
WHAT BENEFIT DO YOU HAVE IN GRANTING MY WISH?
Shock
IF YOUR WISH IS GRANTED, I WILL BE HAPPY TOO.

Fearful suspense
YOU AND I HAVE MET FACE-TO-FACE ONLY ONCE OR TWICE,
SO WHY...
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE PERSON I CARE ABOUT WANTS.
?!
THE PERSON I CARE ABOUT HAS A PERSON THEY CARE ABOUT.
IF THAT PERSON IS HAPPY, THEN MY IMPORTANT PERSON WILL BE HAPPY.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO GRANT YOUR WISH FIRST, OKIURA-SAN.
IS THIS...
ABOUT SAYAKA AND KIYOKAZU?
Fuming
...
...DOES KYOKAZU KNOW THAT YOU'RE MEETING WITH ME LIKE THIS?
NO.
I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HIM.

FUJIMOTO-SAN IS A VERY KIND PERSON.
HE MIGHT BE ANGRY.
IF HE KNEW, HE'D...
BUT,
IF I SOMEHOW WEREN'T THERE, I THINK THAT HE'D CERTAINLY FORGET ABOUT ME IMMEDIATELY.
FUJIMOTO-SAN
...DOESN'T LIKE ME...
DUMBASS!

Running
SO THE KIDS AT THE PRE-K DID TELL FUJIMOTO?
Sighing
Sudden
FUJIMOTO-SAN!!

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S COME TO PICK YOU UP.
LET'S LEAVE IT HERE FOR TODAY, KOBATO-CHAN.
Gasp
OUR CONVERSATION ISN'T OVER YET...!
TOMORROW,
I'LL GO TO YOMOGI KINDERGARTEN.

TELL SAYAKA
THAT IT'LL BE THE LAST TIME.
HEY...!

OKIURA-SAN!
Turning
...

Sudden angry look
WHY DID YOU DO THAT!!
Sharp breath
Turning
SINCE YOU'RE BUSY WITH THE PRE-K AND YOUR JOBS, FUJIMOTO-SAN,
I THOUGHT I'D GO SPEAK WITH OKIURA-SAN...
HUH?
AND YOU'RE WRONG THERE
TOO!

WHY DID YOU SAY THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU!!
BECAUSE THERE ARE NO SIGNS
THAT YOU LIKE ME.
...WHAT
DID YOU SAY?
FROM THE FIRST TIME WE MET UNTIL NOW, I'VE ONLY BEEN A BOTHER,
AND MADE YOU ANGRY, FUJIMOTO-SAN.

I'M NOT ANGRY!
?
?
?
I'M SORRY...
Smoothly
THAT'S NOT IT...!

Scans: ???

TL: starlady38

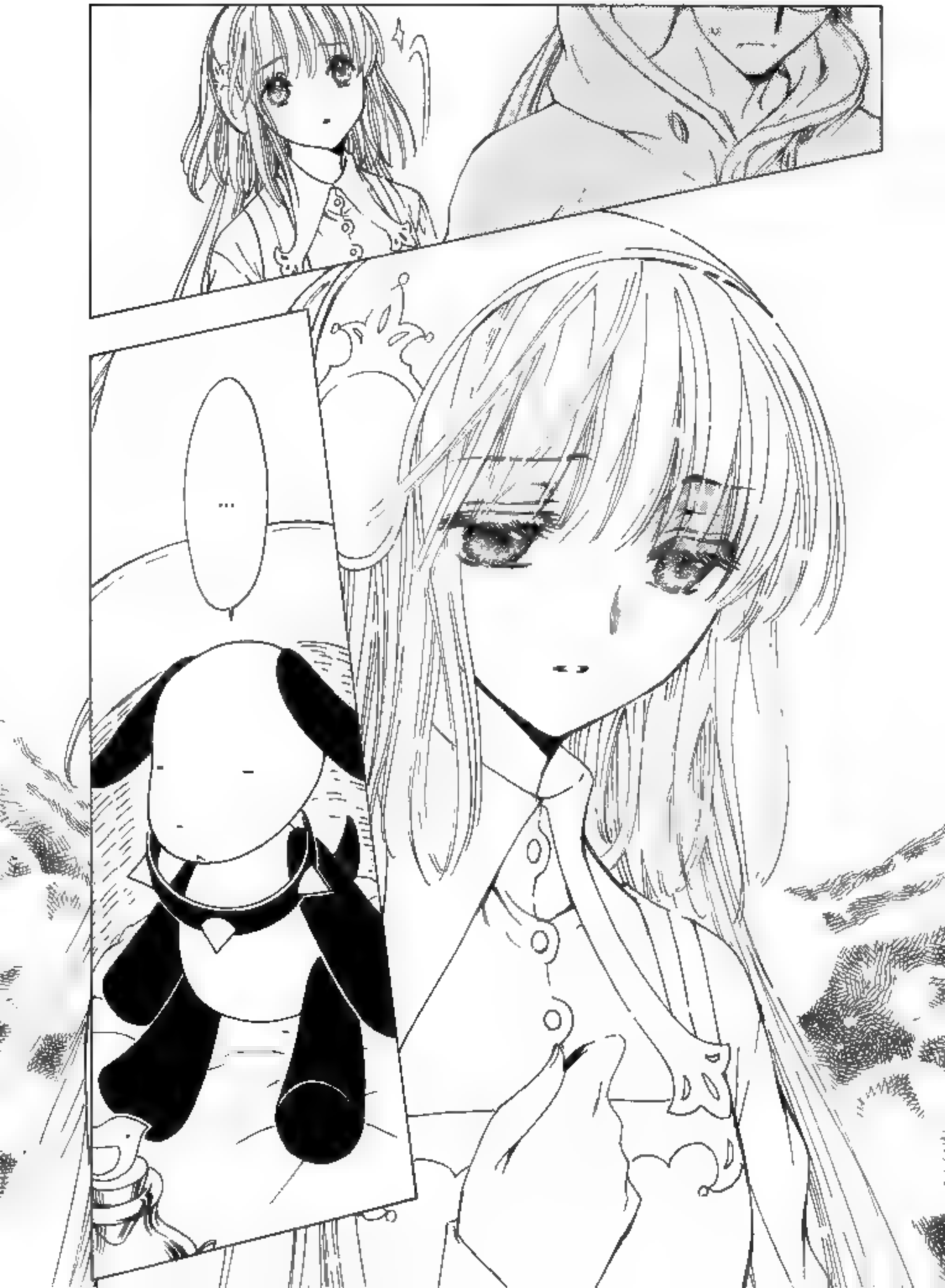
Edit: Fail Manga

FUJIMOTO -SAN...!?
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I...!

I-!
Sudden
KIYOKAZU!

Breathing in
Breathing out
...IT LOOKS LIKE IT.
Running
Breathing harshly
IS KOBATO-CHAN OKAY...!
Blushing
Sideways glance
WHA-!
BUT PERHAPS I WAS INTRUDING?

TOMORROW I'LL GO TO THE YOMOGI KINDER-GARTEN.
TELL SAYAKA THAT THIS IS THE END.
SAYAKA-SAN WAS WORRIED TOO.
BUT I'M GLAD THAT NEITHER OF YOU WERE HURT.
Exhaling
ほ,
...SAYAKA -SAN...

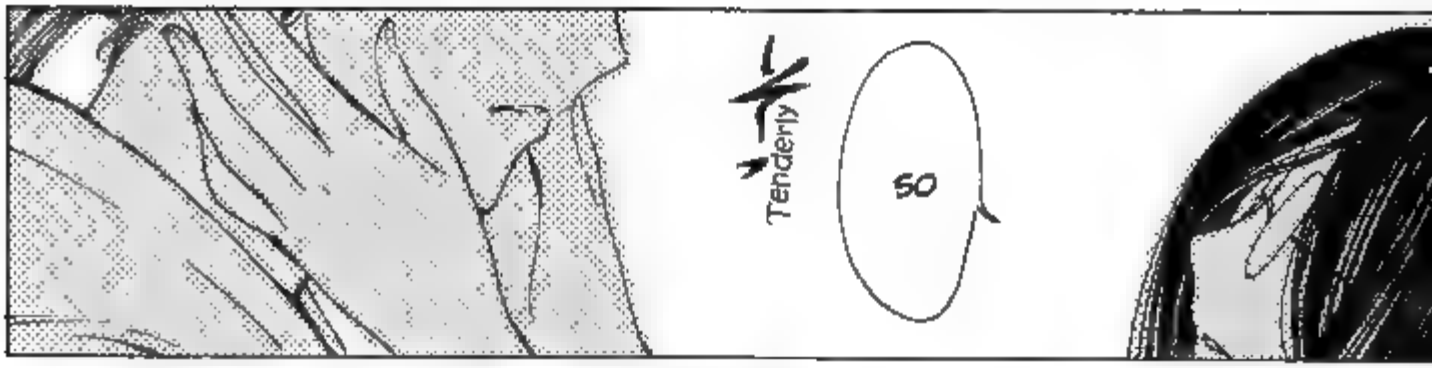


周飛の残りはあと少し……
小鳩の気持ちを知ったおりょぎは？
Presented by CLAMP
こばと。
Drop.23 Desire

...SO,
THAT PERSON SAID
HE'D COME TOMORROW.
SAYAKA-SAN...
EVEN KOBATO-CHAN GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS...
I REALLY AM GLAD THAT SHE WASN'T HURT.

SHE WAS FINE.
SHE'S ALREADY GONE BACK TO HER APARTMENT FOR TODAY.
DID YOU WALK HER BACK PROPERLY?
ER, YES.
BECAUSE IF SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED,
AND ALSO I ASKED CHITOSE-SAN TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT.
I SEE.
YOU KNOW,
FUJI-MOTO-KUN.
Y, YES?
I-

I CONSIDER MYSELF TRULY LUCKY TO HAVE MET YOU, FUJIMOTO-KUN.
SAYAKA-SAN?
THAT DAY,
WHEN FATHER BROUGHT YOU HOME,
AND SAID YOU'D LIVE WITH ME,
AND GIVE ME MUCH HAPPINESS-


Tenderly
SO

THANK YOU FOR BEING AT MY SIDE THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES.
I'M CERTAIN THAT IF I WERE ALONE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAND HERE.

BUT
...WE HAVE TO GO ON.

NEXT TIME, FUJIMOTO -KUN,
I WANT YOU TO GO ON.
NOT FACING THE PAST, BUT AHEAD,
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR HAPPINESS.

TOMORROW, NO MATTER WHAT THE RESULT IS, THAT RESULT WILL BE WHAT I'VE CHOSEN.

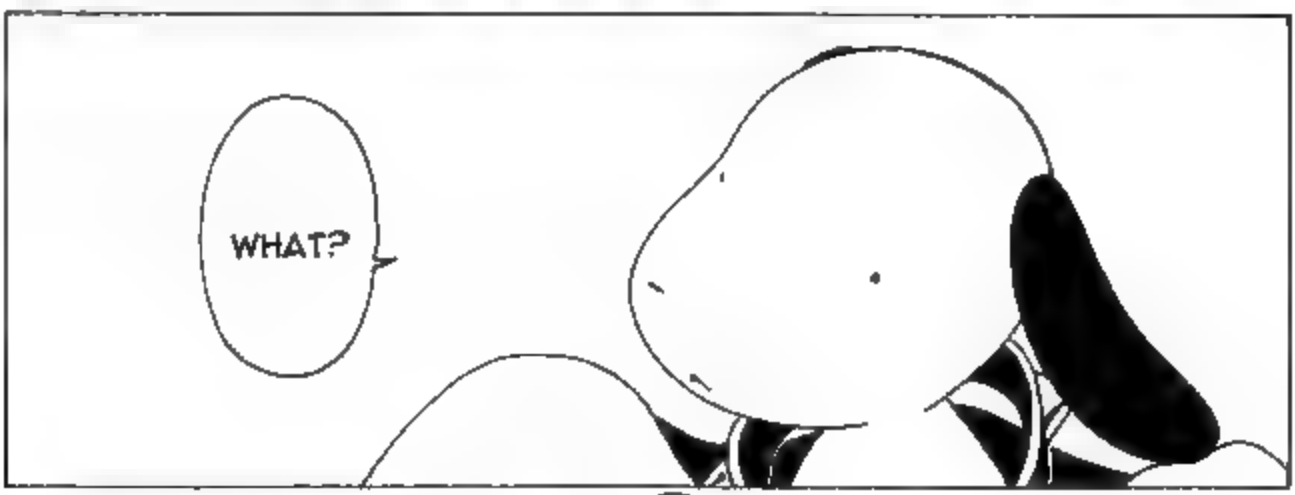
...I,
SAYAKA-SAN, I ALWAYS-
LOVED YOU.
Clench
FOR THAT SAKE,
PLEASE LET ME ASK... ONE QUESTION.
"LOVED," HUH.
BUT,
THANKS.

Hug
TELL
THE REST TO THAT GIRL,
IN THE PRESENT TENSE.
...RIGHT.

TO-MORROW ...
I'M GOING TO YOMOGI KINDER-GARTEN.
I WANT TO DO WHAT I CAN.
Nodding off
SO YOU SHOULD GO TO SLEEP FOR TODAY.
Hop
...YEAH.

...
RIGHT.
Adjusting the blankets
すいすい
EVERY-
THING IS
TOMOR-
ROW.

IORYOGI-
SAN.


WHAT?

...THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

Fluffing out
FOR EVERY-THING.
FOR WHAT?
...GO TO SLEEP.
Slowly

Sudden
Thump

NO.
EVEN IF WE WAIT UNTIL THEY HAVE, KOBATO-CHAN STILL WON'T BE ABLE TO FILL UP THAT BOTTLE.
...THE TWO SEASONS STILL HAVEN'T ROLLED AROUND.
ふわ〜
Floating away
...DID GOD UNDER-STAND?
THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN TO KOBATO?
ギリ
Teeth grinding

ANSWER ME!
DID HE UNDERSTAND THAT HE ORDERED HER TO HEAL WOUNDED HEARTS, AS THE CONDITION OF HER WISH BEING GRANTED?
THAT IF SHE HEALED THE HEART OF THE PERSON SHE CARED ABOUT MOST, SHE WOULD BE THE ONE MOST HURT?

Roaring
WHAT IS HIS TRUE DESIRE?!
PLEASE WAIT.
Twitch
Wings flapping

Scans: ???

TL: starlady38

Edit: Fail Manga

こばと。
Presented by CLAMP

...SUISHOU.

I KNEW IT.
IT WAS YOU, THAT TIME?
YES.
I HELPED.
BUT EVEN IF I WEREN'T WITHIN,
I THINK KOBATO-SAN WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD.
THAT PERSON'S
...TRUE EMOTIONS.

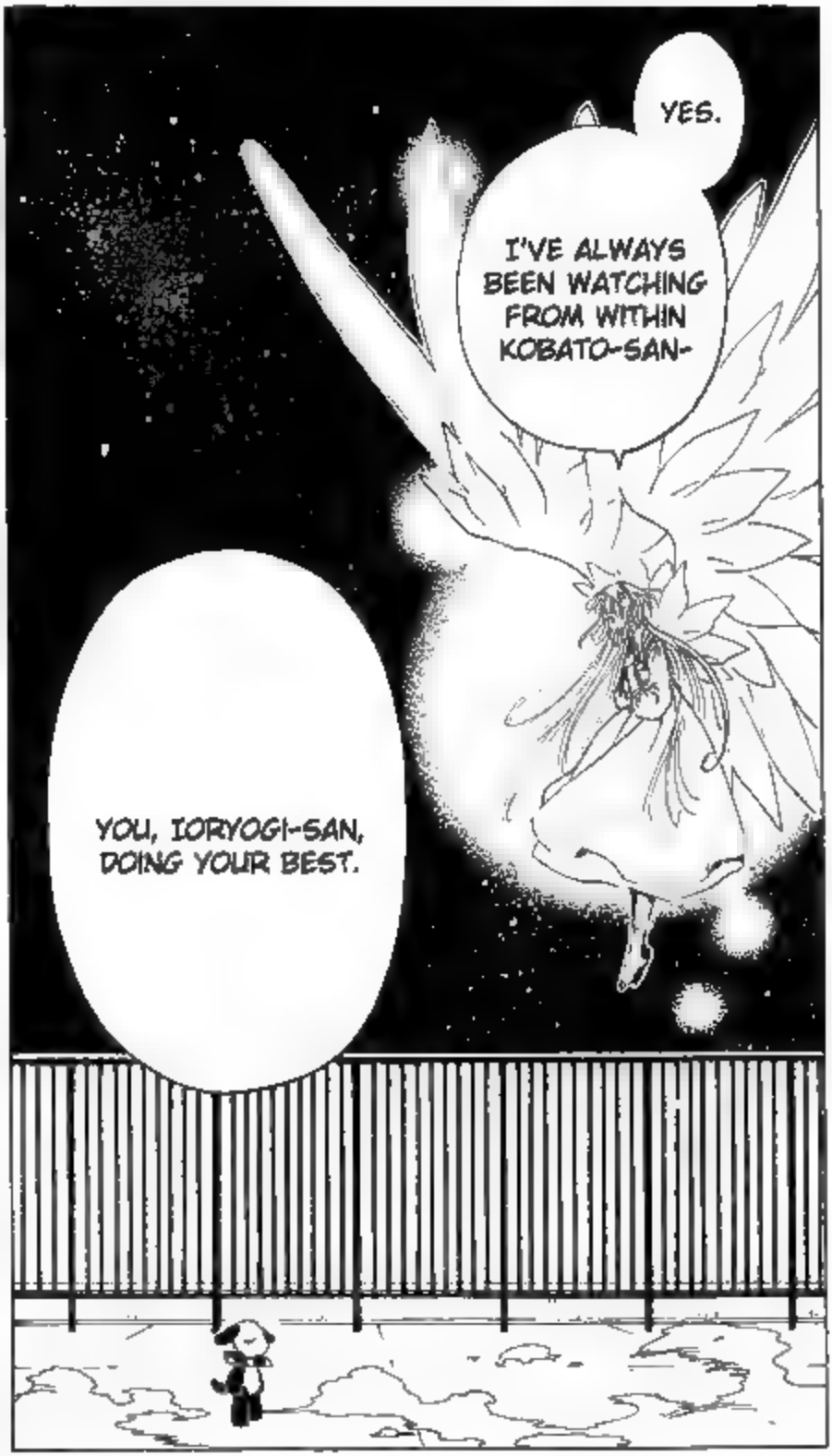
THAT YOU CAME OUT MEANS...
...
THAT THE TIME THAT WAS STOPPED IS MOVING.

IT IS MY WISH THAT KOBATO-SAN CHOOSE THE PATH THAT SHE CONSIDERS HAPPINESS.
LIKE YOU THINK, IORYOGI-SAN.

I STILL HAVEN'T SAID.
Toryogi-san
Air moving
I AM SORRY.
COULD YOU NOT USE THAT APPEAR-ANCE?
NO.
THIS FORM
IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEITHER KOBATO-SAN NOR MYSELF DISAPPEARING.
THE PREVIOUS ONE WAS WONDERFUL, BUT THIS ONE IS QUITE WONDERFUL TOO.

DID YOU KNOW?

...I KNEW IT WASN'T THAT YOU CAN'T ASSUME THAT APPEAR-ANCE


YES.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WATCHING FROM WITHIN KOBATO-SAN-
YOU, IORYOGI-SAN, DOING YOUR BEST.

...THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SPEAKING OF ORIGI-NALLY, IT'S SOME-THING I CAUSED, ISN'T IT.
TRULY,
Shaking head
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Whirling
Rotating
Fluttering
WAIT!
Spiralling
Clenching
...“EVERYTHING, TOMORROW”...
YOU SAID?
Flash

slowly
popping
SUISHOU!
EVERY-
THING,
TO-
MOR-
ROW.

TO-
MORROW,
HUH?

GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, KOBATO-SAN.
I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TO WORRY YESTERDAY.
I'M GLAD THAT IT WAS NOTHING.
BUT DON'T OVERDO IT, OKAY?
IS HE GOING TO YOMOGI KINDER-GARTEN TODAY, TOO?
FUJI-MOTO-KUN?
IT SEEMS HE DIDN'T RETURN YESTERDAY.

YES?
CHITOSE-SAN.
BUT
I THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO MEET AT YOMOGI KINDER-GARTEN.
Sudden
ばっ
WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...I'M HEADING OUT.
KOBATO-SAN...

Scans: ???

TL: starlady38

Edit: Fail Manga

I'M GOING OUT, MAMA.
TAKE CARE,
CHISE, CHIHO.
ぱたぱた
ぱたぱた
Footsteps
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING?
KOBATO-SAN...
Presented by CLAMP

SAID, "THANK YOU VERY MUCH"...
WHY "VERY MUCH"?
IS KOBATO-SAN GOING AWAY?
G&P
KOBATO-SAN...!

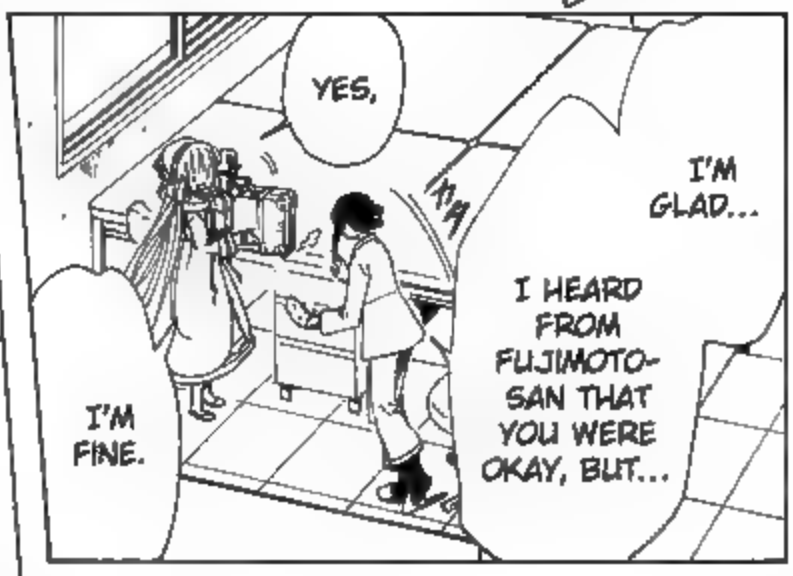
IN THE END,
I DIDN'T COLLECT THEM AT ALL-
WOUNDED HEARTS.

...YEAH.
THERE'S STILL TIME REMAIN-ING TO COLLECT THEM.
BUT...
RIGHT.
I WANT TO DO WHAT I CAN.
THIS IS FINE.

I
LOVE SAYAKA-SENSEI.
I SEE.
THAT'S WHY
I WANT SAYAKA-SENSEI TO SMILE.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

Sliding open the door
GOOD MORNING,
SAYAKA-SENSEI.
Beaming
KOBATO-CHAN!

I'M SORRY.
I GOT YOU INVOLVED IN MY SITUATION.

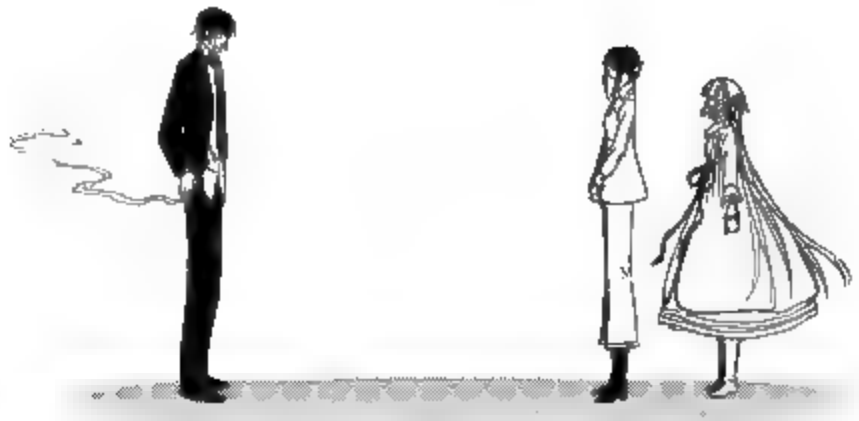

YES,
I'M FINE.
I'M GLAD...
I HEARD FROM FUJIMOTO-SAN THAT YOU WERE OKAY, BUT...

SAYAKA-SENSEI, YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.
NOT AT ALL.
SO
PLEASE DO AS YOU FEEL, SAYAKA-SENSEI.

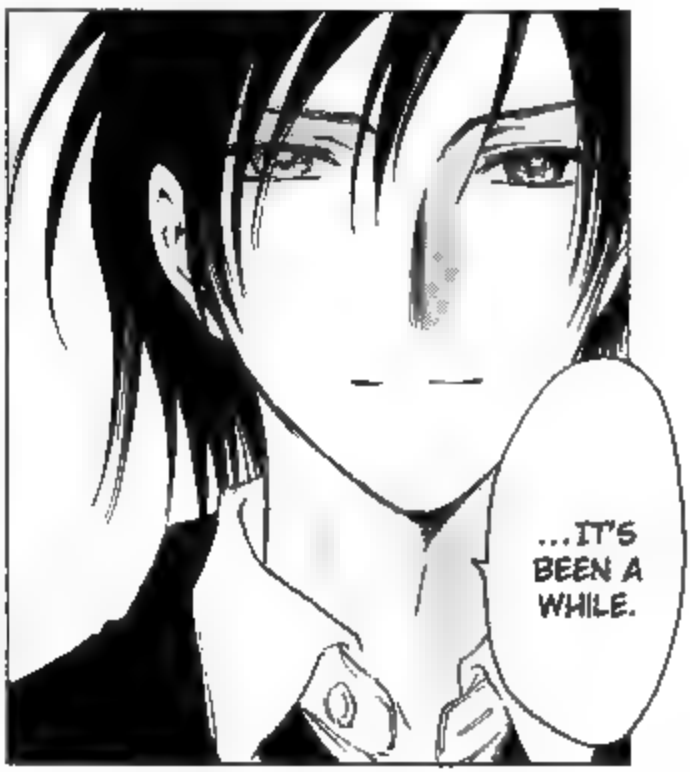
...THANK YOU.
Sudden

Squeezing
IT'S FINE.
LET'S GO.
Scuffing

ふぅ



...THAT'S RIGHT.


...IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT SOME SKETCHY GUYS ARE COMING.
IS IT OKAY TO STAND AND SMOKE HERE?
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE.
BUT,
IT'S FINE.
WHAT IS?

I WILL CLOSE DOWN
YOMOGI KINDERGARTEN.

Scans: ???

TL: starlady38

Edit: Fail Manga

こばと。

Presented by CLAMP

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THEN YOU'LL BE LEAVING AT SOME POINT, RIGHT?
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY GOOD MEMORIES IN THIS TOWN.
SO YOU'LL GO AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN...
BEFORE THAT
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU,
KAZUTO-SAN.
WHAT?

YEAH.

I KNEW.

DID YOU-

HE WAS THE HEAD OF THIS KINDER-GARTEN OR WHATEVER YOU CALL IT.
HE HAD NO MONEY, BUT HE WAS TRUSTING, AND IT WAS EASY TO MAKE HIM TAKE ON THE DEBT, TOO.
ONCE YOU SAID 'CHARITABLE ENTERPRISE,' IT WAS SIMPLE TO GET HIM INVOLVED.

IT WAS YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY
THAT PROPOSED THE PROJECT TO MY FATHER, AND MADE HIM TAKE ON THE DEBT.

ALONG WITH THIS LAND AND THE THINGS
HERE.
WELL,
IN THE END THE PART WHERE WE MADE HIM TAKE ON A DEBT FOR THE PROJECT WAS BY DECEPTION TOO.

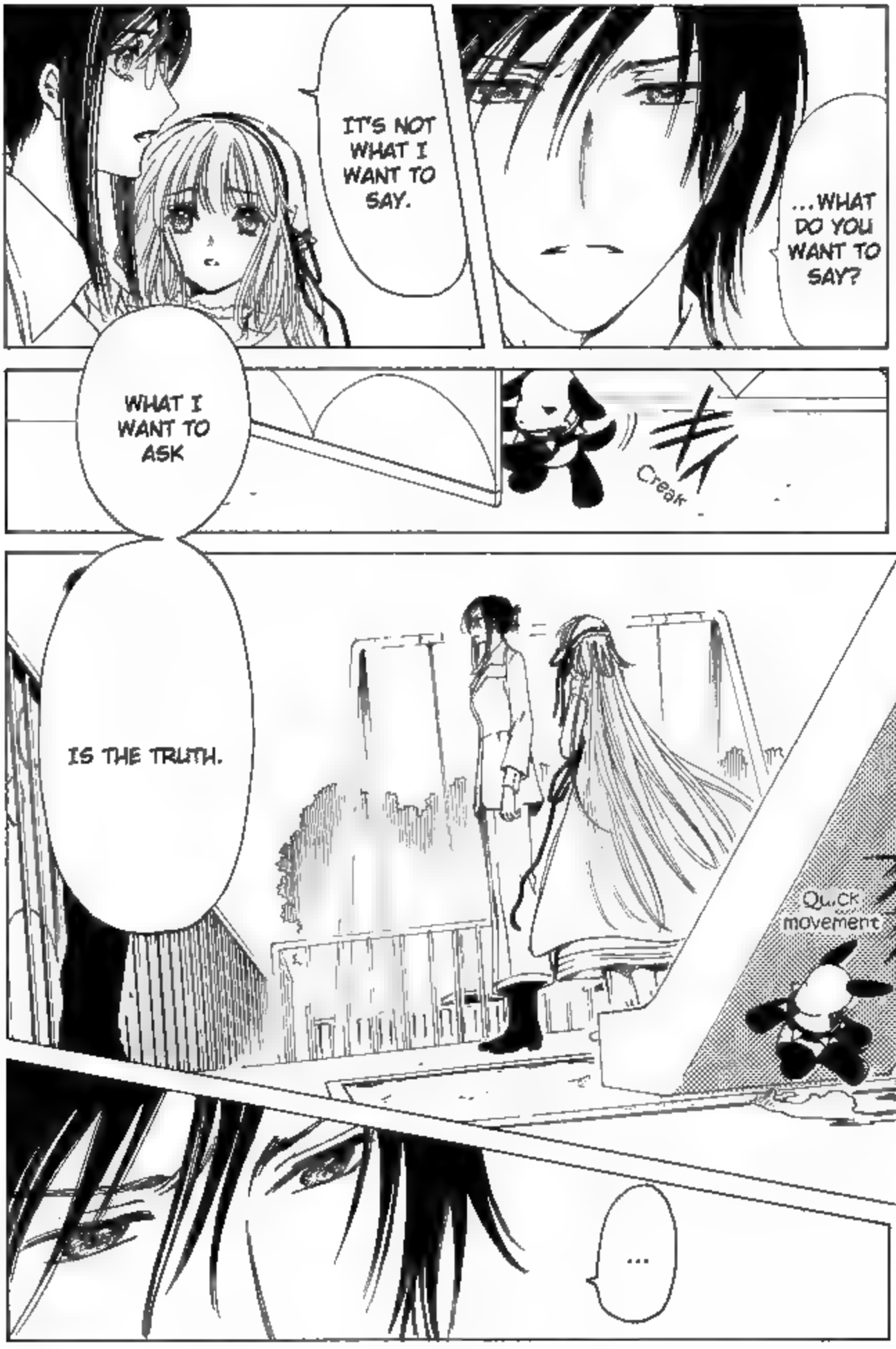
WAS THAT
WHAT YOU WERE THINKING BEFORE I MARRIED YOU?

YES.
AND SINCE WE'D SQUEEZED OUT ALL THE MONEY, I DIVORCED YOU.

...
SAYAKA-
SENSEI...
THERE'S
ONE MORE
THING I
WANT TO
ASK.

WHY DID YOU MARRY ME?
BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND HIS INNER THOUGHTS AS A DUTIFUL SON THAN AS A COMPLETE STRANGER.
DO YOU WANT TO SAY IT WAS FOR THAT REASON?
THERE'S SOME-THING BEYOND THAT?
...MY FATHER-
AS YOU SAY, HE WAS A PERSON WHO'D TRUST STRANGERS IMMEDIATELY.
EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T HIS DAUGHTER'S HUSBAND.

ISN'T MY FATHER AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HE WAS TRICKED OUT OF FOR THIS KINDERGARTEN RATHER SMALL?
BESIDES, TO YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY,
EVEN ENTERING MY FAMILY REGISTER-
THAT'S PARTICULARLY DISPROPOR-TIONATE.


IT'S NOT WHAT I WANT TO SAY.
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?
WHAT I WANT TO ASK
Creak
IS THE TRUTH.
Quick movement
...

WHEN YOU MARRIED ME, YOU HAD BROKEN OFF RELATIONS WITH YOUR FATHER.
YOU'D DECIDED THAT YOU'D NEVER GO BACK TO YOUR FATHER'S AGAIN, AND YOU DECLARED THAT WHEN YOU CAME TO MY PLACE.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
MY FATHER TOLD ME.
MY FATHER REALLY WAS A GOOD PERSON, BUT HE WASN'T INDIFFERENT TO THE PERSON WHO WOULD BECOME HIS ONLY DAUGHTER'S HUSBAND.
HE RELIED ON VARIOUS INTERMEDIARIES, AND HE ASKED AROUND HIMSELF.
HE KNEW THAT YOU HATED YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY'S WAY OF DOING BUSINESS, AND YOU WERE DESPERATE TO LEAVE YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE.
AND THAT YOU WERE WORKING HARD SOMEWHERE ELSE, AND THAT YOU WERE TRUSTED BY THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.

OF COURSE,
I'D SAID THAT I'D FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU AS WELL.
THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T ASK YOU ANYTHING AND APPROVED YOU MARRYING ME.
BUT YOUR FATHER HADN'T GIVEN UP ON THE SIGNS FOR YOU TO SUCCEED HIM.
BEFORE THE SCHOOL MET WITH FRAUD,
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING A VERY HARD TIME, FOR A SHORT WHILE.
DID YOUR FATHER MAKE YOU SOME KIND OF OFFER?
EVEN IF IT WOULD CAUSE MY FATHER AND I PAIN?

AND MY FATHER TOOK ON THE DEBT, AND DIED.
BUT YOU STAYED WITH US,
AND SO
WERE YOU TOLD THAT I WOULD BE NEXT?
...

YOU KNEW YOUR FATHER WAS SERIOUS,
AND YOU THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T PREVENT HIM,
AND YOU TOLD ME YOU'D DONE EVERYTHING YOURSELF AND LEFT.
IS TELLING ME TO CLOSE THE KINDERGARTEN AND GO FAR AWAY BECAUSE YOU WANT ME TO GO SOME-WHERE YOUR FATHER CAN'T REACH ME?
...ALL OF THAT IS YOUR MISTAKE, SAYAKA...
I'M NOT MISTAKEN.

THERE SHOULD BE NO MISTAKE, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE HUSBAND AND WIFE,
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING TO ME?
ABOUT WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON?
...IF I HAD,
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?

SLAP

Sending forward

IF I'D DONE THAT, I'D HAVE JUST MADE YOU CRY.

SAYAKA-SENSEI!!

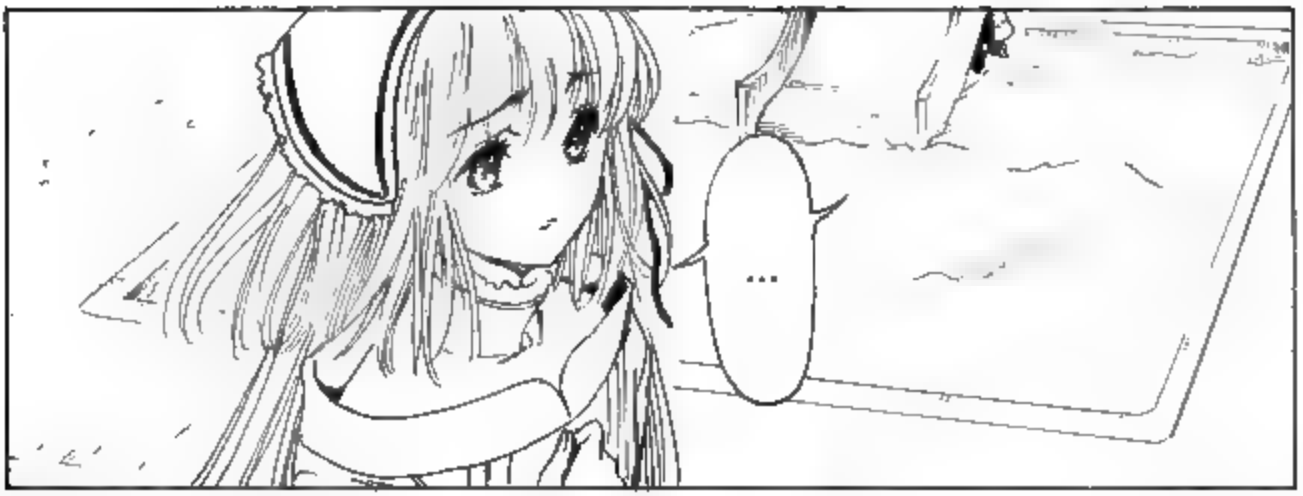
Scans: ???

TL: starlady38

Edit: Fail Manga

WHEN YOU HAD DOUBTS ABOUT MARRYING ME,
WE THOUGHT ABOUT IT TOGETHER, DIDN'T WE!?
I WOULD HAVE CRIED!
AND AFTER THAT WE'D HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT TO DO TOGETHER!
Grip
TOGETHER !!
WE DID OUR BEST, DIDN'T WE!?
FOR YOU TO SPEAK!
AND I WAS ALWAYS WAITING FOR YOU,
こばと。
Presented by CLAMP

FOR YOU TO TELL ME TO LIVE, WITH YOU!
SO ...WHY DID I END UP ALONE?
WHY...
DID YOU LEAVE ME ALONE...


...

Glare
I TOLD YOU
IF YOU MADE SAYAKA-SAN CRY ANY MORE, I'D MAKE IT SO THAT YOU COULDN'T COME HERE OPENLY AGAIN.

Slowly

Clutch

...
SAYAKA
...

FUJIMOTO-SAN!!!
BESIDES, IF I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO HANG ON TO SAYAKA-SAN'S HANDS,
I'LL SEND YOU TO THE GRAVEYARD IMMEDIATELY.
KYOKAZU-CHAN. .

I HATE YOU, BUT
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE.
SAYAKA-SAN WILL SAY THAT SHE WANTS TO BE OKIURA SAYAKA.
... FUJIMOTO-SAN...

IF YOU'D BEEN ONE MINUTE LATER,

I WOULD'VE TAKEN A SWING AT YOU.

I'M GLAD ABOUT THAT.

IT WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY HURT.

FUJIMOTO-SAN...

...DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO CLOSE YOMOGI KINDERGARTEN?
I WANT TO CONTACT THE PARENTS, FOR THEIR APPROVAL.
THERE WILL BE SOME WHO SAY THAT IT'S TOO BAD, BUT-
MAYBE AFTER THIS I CAN OPEN A KINDERGARTEN IN SOME OTHER PLACE.
BUT
TO BE WITH YOU, THERE'S NO CHANGING THIS TIMING NOW.
...YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING, SAYAKA.
I STOPPED BY DOUMOTO'S FATHER'S LAW FIRM BEFORE I CAME HERE,
AND ASKED HIM A FEW THINGS.

...
ABOUT THE ADJUST-MENT OF THE DEBT, AND THE CLOSURE OF THE KINDER-GARTEN.
HE'LL LEND ME A HAND, AND I'LL DO IT.
SO START RUNNING ALREADY.
IT'S DANGEROUS, SO I WANT YOU TO TAKE SAYAKA-SAN FAR AWAY FROM HERE.
RUN, THE TWO OF YOU.
...EVEN IF WE RUN, HE'LL FOLLOW ME.
HE WILL.

EVEN IF HE FOLLOWS US, WE CAN JUST RUN AGAIN.
AND IN THAT TIME WE CAN THINK OF A WAY TO FIGHT YOUR FATHER.
WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN,
IF WE'RE TOGETHER.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
LIM-

UM,
IS THE THING THAT HURTS YOU THE MOST, SAYAKA-SENSEI,
THE THING WITH OKIURA-SAN'S FATHER?
I'M SORRY.
YOU HELPED WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, BUT I DECIDED TO CLOSE THE KINDERGARTEN WITHOUT CONSULTING YOU.
NO,
THAT'S NOT IT.
UM-
HUH?
KOBATO... CHAN?
IF OKIURA-SAN'S FATHER
DIDN'T FOLLOW YOU, AND DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO THE TWO OF YOU,
WOULD YOU BE HEALED, SAYAKA-SENSEI?

IF SAYAKA-SENSEI WERE HEALED,
YOU'D BE HEALED TOO, FUJIMOTO-SAN.
WOULD YOU BE HEALED?
IF THAT HAPPENED,
I WOULD.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU-
Sudden
KOBATO CAN'T DO A THING LIKE THAT.
SHE CAN'T BE...!

70

Light

Slowly

I'VE FOUND MY WISH,

USHAGI-SAN.

?

Stopping

Scans: ???

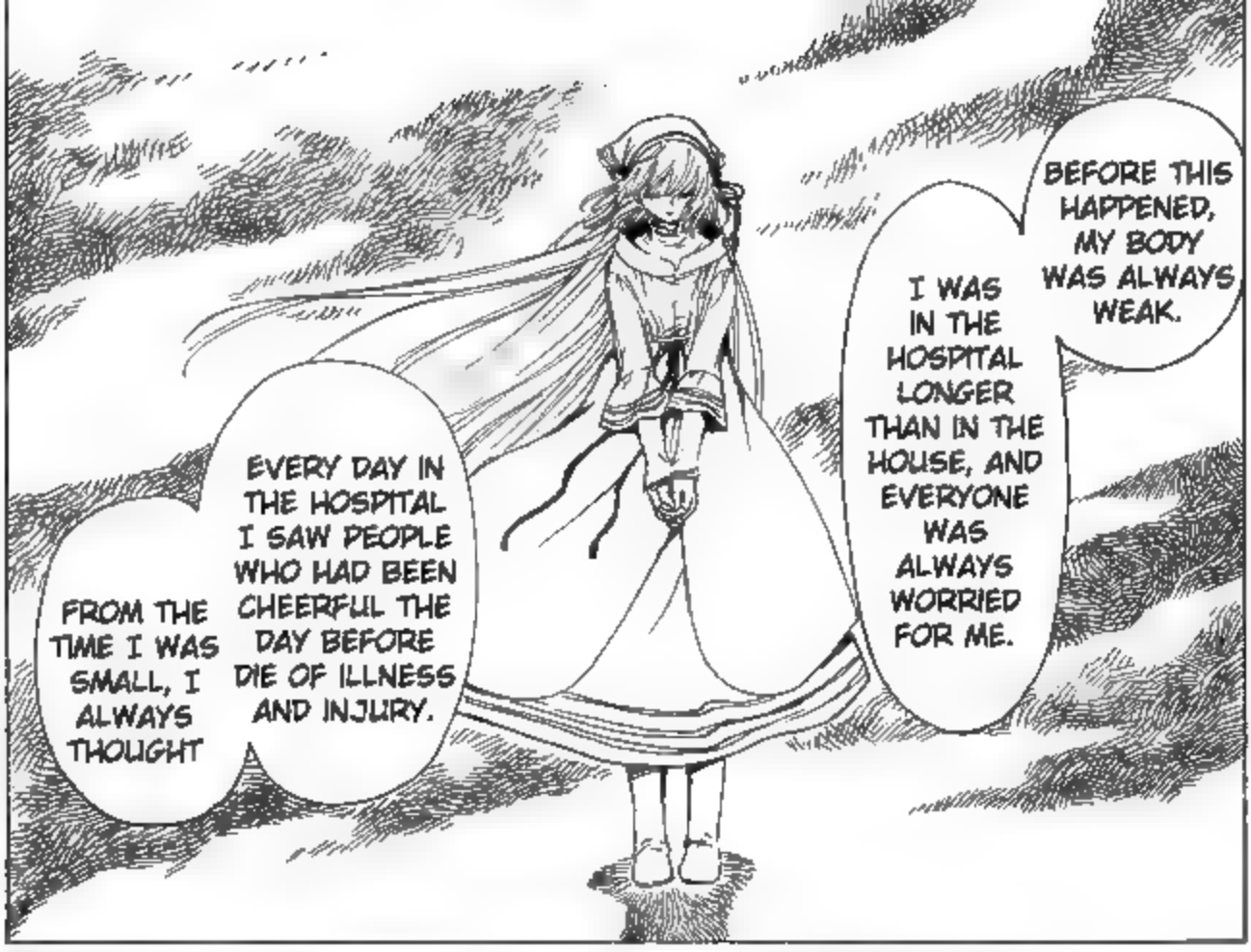
TL: starlady38

Edit: Fail Manga

Running
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT USHAGI!?
Halting
GOD TOLD ME.
YOU... NOW-
ARE YOU SUI-SHOU?
NO, I'M HANATO KOBATO.
こばと。
Presented by CLAMP

THAT TIME WHEN MY TIME
STOP-PED.
I TALKED
WITH GOD TOO,
THAT DAY.
THAT I MIGHT DIE FOR AN
UNRELATED REASON.
SO IF I HAD ANY WISHES, HE WOULD GRANT JUST ONE.
GOD TOLD ME

I ANSWERED THAT I WANTED TO LIVE.
AND GOD SAID THAT THAT WAS INCREDIBLY SERIOUS, AND FOR ME, DIFFICULT,
BUT
SINCE SOMEONE WOULD PROBABLY DO THEIR BEST FOR THAT, HE TOLD ME TO SAY SOME-THING ELSE.
SO I SAID THAT
"I WANT TO GO."
"I WANT TO GO TO THE PLACE WHERE THE PEOPLE I LOVE ARE,"
I SAID.


BEFORE THIS HAPPENED, MY BODY WAS ALWAYS WEAK.
I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL LONGER THAN IN THE HOUSE, AND EVERYONE WAS ALWAYS WORRIED FOR ME.
EVERY DAY IN THE HOSPITAL I SAW PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN CHEERFUL THE DAY BEFORE DIE OF ILLNESS AND INJURY.
FROM THE TIME I WAS SMALL, I ALWAYS THOUGHT

"PEOPLE DIE FROM JUST A LITTLE THING."
"THEY WON'T ALWAYS CONTINUE UNTIL TOMORROW."
AND I CAN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING FOR THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

SO I WISHED TO BE ABLE TO GO TO WHERE THEY WERE.
EVEN IF I WERE REBORN, EVEN...
IF I WERE DEAD.

"EVEN IF I'M REBORN,
I WANT TO BE NEAR WHERE THEY ARE," I THOUGHT.
BUT GOD
SAID THAT WISHES ARE THINGS THAT CHANGE.
AND THAT WHEN I, WHOSE TIME HAD STOPPED,
WAS RETURNED TO THE HUMAN WORLD,
JUST BECAUSE I WOULD FORGET MANY THINGS, I WOULD HELPED BY MANY PEOPLE.

IF I FOUND A NEW WISH,
AND THAT, IF MY WISH CHANGED,
I SHOULD CALL ON USHAGI-SAN.
...GOD DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS TO ME...
NOW, I'VE FOUND IT.
MY WISH.

AND THAT THE TWO OF THEM CAN BE HAPPY.
THAT OKIURA-SAN'S FATHER WON'T DO AWFUL THINGS TO SAYAKA-SENSEI AND OKIURA-SAN ANY MORE,
THE BOTTLE ISN'T FULL YET,
BUT IS IT ENOUGH?
HEY, WAIT!!

Whirling
...THAT'S GOOD.
THIS IS NOT GOOD!
IF THAT WISH IS GRANTED,
YOU,
YOU'LL DIE LIKE THIS!
THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT
RIGHT NOW THIS
IS THE WISH I WANT GRANTED MOST.
THAT I COULD BE ABLE TO LIVE ALONE WITH YOU, IORYOGI-SAN, AS I'D LONGED TO DO,
AND THAT I COULD WANDER AROUND OUTSIDE CHEER-FULLY...
WITH EVERYONE'S HELP,
I WAS HAPPY.
SINCE THAT'S SOMETHING I COULDN'T DO UP UNTIL NOW.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH?
LEAVING WITHOUT SAYING ANY-THING TO FUJI-MOTO !?
I WAS ABLE TO MEET
FUJI-MOTO-SAN TOO.
...
BESIDES,
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SINCE FUJIMOTO-SAN WILL BE ABLE TO SMILE THIS WAY,

Light
¡¡¡POOF!!!

WHY COULD YOU ONLY SAY IT PROPERLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?

FOR GIVING YOUR ALL FOR ME,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

IOROGI-SAN.

I LOVE YOU.

...GOODBYE.

Scans: ???

TL: starlady38

Edit: Fail Manga

WHAT'S WRONG, FUJIMOTO-KUN!?
WAS IT JUST THE THREE OF US HERE?
BUT, JUST NOW-
...I DON'T KNOW...
...!
Breath of air
KIYO-KAZU-CHAN?
WE AGREED YESTERDAY THAT JUST THE THREE OF US WOULD DISCUSS THIS.
...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

...TERRIBLY PRECIOUS...

...I FEEL LIKE I'VE LOST SOMETHING.

SOMETHING...

BUT

I...

NOW ...

Presented by CLAMP

こばと。

The Final Chapter

FINALLY MADE IT
...I'VE
HERE!
Flap flipping up
ぱか
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS LATER, I'VE COME.
AFTER SIXTEEN YEARS,
THAT IS.
ようやく

IT'S THANKS TO YOU, IORYOGI-SAN, AND SUISHOU-SAN DOING YOUR BEST.
IN THE END, DIDN'T YOU DIE AFTER ALL?
BE-CAUSE I ORIGINALLY WAS TOLD THAT I HAD THREE MORE MONTHS,
OF COURSE I WAS SAD, BUT
THAT I WAS ABLE TO STAY IN THIS TOWN
FOR EVEN THAT LITTLE WHILE, SIXTEEN YEARS AGO,
WAS MY TREASURE.
... GEEZ.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE REBORN WITH THE MEMORIES OF YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE.
!!!
IORYOGI-SAN!!
I KNEW IMMEDIATELY THAT YOU WERE IORYOGI-SAN.
IT WAS DIFFICULT TO HEAR YOU SAYING THAT YOU'D TAKE ME HOME WHILE YOU WERE CRYING.
THAT SOMEONE WAS WATCHING OVER ME.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE MET,
BUT I'D ALWAYS FELT, FROM WHEN I WAS EVEN SMALLER,

NOT MY PARENTS,
BUT THE EMOTIONS OF SOMEONE VERY KIND.
Squeeze
...
IT WAS YOU WHO WERE LOOKING OUT FOR ME SINCE I WAS BORN,
IORYOGI-SAN.
IT'S NOT THE LAST TIME AROUND, BUT I WOULDN'T SAY YOU'RE ALL RIGHT YET.
BUT,
AND THAT I CAN THINK THAT THERE'S SOME-THING AFTER THIS-
THAT I'M ALIVE,
I TRULY AM HAPPY.
Climbing up

BACK THEN,
THE WARMTH I GOT FROM EVERYONE-
I WANTED TO RETURN IT.
I WAS ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THEM.
WE HAD A CONNEC-TION;
IF THE YOMOGI KINDERGARTEN WAS STILL AROUND,
IF I COULD FINALLY GET THERE-
...REALLY.
THIS IS CERTAINLY THE YOMOGI KINDER-GARTEN THAT'S RUN BY THE HUSBAND-AND-WIFE TEAM, OKIURA KAZUTO AND SAYAKA.
GENKO LOOKED INTO IT, AND THERE'S NO INTERFERENCE FROM OKIURA'S FATHER, EITHER.
IT'S PEACEFUL.
I REALLY...
AM GLAD ABOUT THAT.

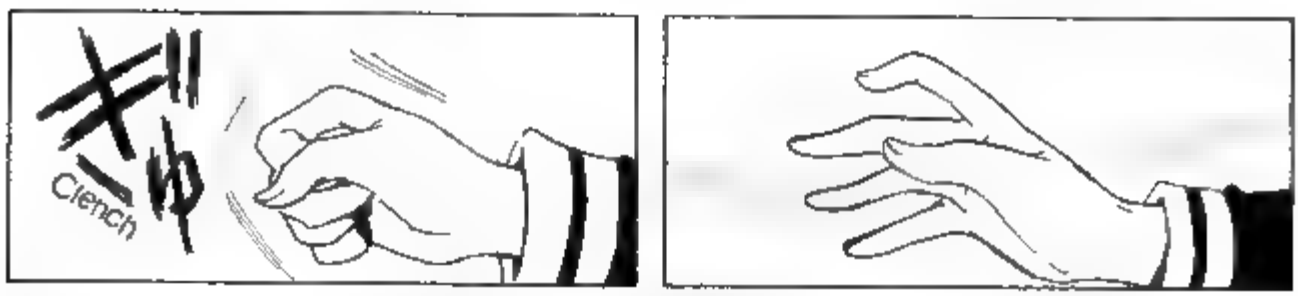
THE OKIURAS HERE WON'T REMEMBER YOU.
BUT, KO-BATO,
AND FUJIMOTO WON'T... EITHER.
I KNOW THAT.
BUT MY WISH
WAS "TO GO TO WHERE THE PEOPLE I LOVE ARE."

Pointing
NOW!
IT SAYS THAT YOMOGI KINDERGARTEN IS LOOKING FOR PART-TIME HELP!
Excitement
I HAVE TO GET AN INTERVIEW AND BE ALLOWED TO HELP OUT!
KOBATO ...
THAT'S WHY,
EVEN IF FUJIMOTO-SAN HAS FORGOTTEN, MY WISH WILL BE GRANTED PROPERLY.
I, KOBATO, WILL DO MY BEST!

SHEESH, THIS IS THE SAME AS SIXTEEN YEARS AGO!
HEY!
I'M SORRY ~
Wham
ALIGH!!
Pattering
Footstep
IS SOME-THING ...

DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS AT THIS KINDER-GARTEN?
SO YOU DID BECOME A LAWYER!
HUH ...?
Shaking head

I'M HANATO KOBATO.
I HEARD THAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR PART-TIME HELP HERE.
SINCE IT SAID THAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR HELP IN THE EVENINGS, I CAME TO INQUIRE DIRECTLY ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL!
YES!
THAT UNIFORM- YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, RIGHT?
I-
NO, I'VE JUST COME HERE ON BUSINESS,
SO YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK THE PRINCIPAL FOR THE DETAILS.


Clench

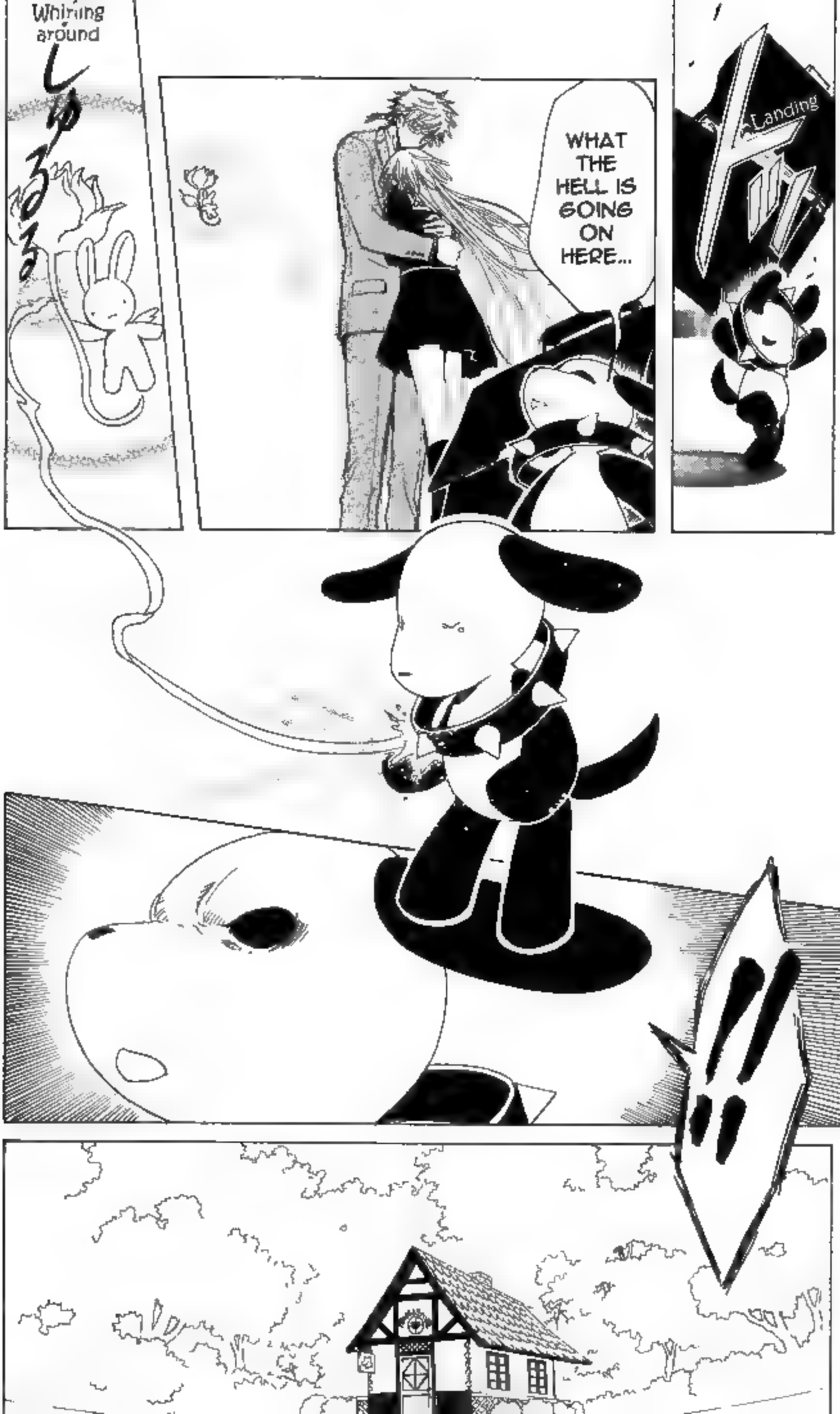
...

Light
WHY IS USHAGI-SAN
HERE NOW...!

HUH...
...YOU'RE LATE.
I CAN FINALLY SAY IT.
Dropping
THE PERSON I LOVE
HAS FINALLY COME BACK.

I LOVE YOU.

...KOBATO.


Whirling around
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE...
Landing

KOBATO-CHAN SAID
SHE'D GO TODAY.
TO YOMOGI KINDER-GARTEN, YEAH.
Crinkling
I WONDER WHETHER SHE'LL GET AN INTER-VIEW.
HELPING OUT HERE, SHE'S BEEN A GOOD KID, BUT SHE'S CLUMSY.
YEAH-
TRUE-
I WONDERED WHAT WE'D DO WITH HER WHEN IOROGI FIRST BROUGHT HER.
SHE WAS SO SMALL, BUT-
WELL, SINCE SHE HAD HER PREVIOUS MEMORIES, THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THAT SURPRISED HER.
THAT'S TRUE!
AND SHE GOT USED TO THINGS RIGHT AWAY!
IF SHE MEETS THAT FUJIMOTO TODAY, WE'LL FINALLY SEE THE ENDING.
Rummaging
OF MY PRAYER TO YOUR GOD?

Ta-daaa!
EVEN TO THE POINT OF TAKING THAT FORM!
"WHEN MISS KOBATO AND FUJIMOTO CAN MEET ONCE MORE,
I WANT FUJIMOTO'S VANISHED MEMORIES TO RETURN"?
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D WISH FOR THAT KIND OF THING FOR THE SAKE OF A GIRL.
Griping
Wriggling
...HMPH.
Death glare
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
Shocked
YOU FEEL THE EMOTIONS FROM THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT HERE WITH HER.
IT'S NOT JUST IOROGI.

BASTARD!
Sudden
Dying of laughter
Chuckling
EVEN IF YOU'VE PUT ON THAT FORM,
YOUR PERSONALITY IS HOPELESS!
Battle-cry
SHEESH
PLEASE GET BACK TO WORK-
Mangled
AND FURTHERMORE, THAT FORM IS REALLY CLUMSY...
Shaking
Whipping out

Light
HE ..
That I'm still inside Kobato-chan is restraining her illness,
But if she gets through this entire life, in the next she'll be born completely healthy.
SUISHOU...

Enough that she won't need me.
And then
Will you come to get me?
I'd be wonderful enough if you were as you are now.
DON'T SAY FOOLISH THINGS, SILLY ANGEL.
I WON'T SAY NO.
AND THEN I'LL BE IN MY ORIGINAL FORM.
YOU'RE MINE,
AND I'M YOURS.
I'LL WAIT.
...Yes.

WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO TELL EACH OTHER PROPERLY.

THAT FUJIMOTO-SAN... AND I LOVE EACH OTHER.

Scans: ???

TL: starlady38

Edit: Fail Manga